

SPONSOR'S REBUTTAL TO FISCAL NOTE

Bill Number: House Bill 437

Date Prepared: 02/14/2011

Short Title: Providing medicaid coverage for orientation and mobility services

Sponsor: Rep. Jean Price

Fiscal Note Version and Date: HB 437_01.docx 2/14/2011

Generally, why do you disagree with the fiscal note?

Specifically, what in the fiscal note do you feel is flawed?

- a. Under the Fiscal Analysis Assumptions number 1, please note that the number of hours suggested for Orientation and Mobility services for a blind or visually impaired child is estimated at 40 hours per year. According to Steve Gettel, Superintendent of Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, their students receive on average 54 hours of service per year.
- b. Under this Assumptions section number 3, please note that the estimated number of students who are receiving this service is 84. Please refer to Steve Gettel's message (attached) where he indicates that the number of Medicaid eligible students is difficult to somewhat difficult to estimate. As you can see he and his staff feel that 48 would be a much closer estimate.
- c. During testimony on 2/14/11 it was stated that Orientation and Minority specialists charge \$65.00 an hour at the highest. You can see that even using the figures stated on the Fiscal Note under 1 and 3 would not compute to anything nearly as high as \$593,855.00, and using my figures stated above would be even lower. I realize that Medicaid has codes that they must follow but surely this is extreme.
- d. Please refer to the Amendment HB043701.aso. This new Section 2 describes the use of Matching Funds which will cover a great portion of the remaining cost to the General Fund.

What is your estimate of the fiscal impact?

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